

Radical

Lesson 4: The Great Why of God

DAY 1

Read Chapter 4

Memory Verse: God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him. (Ps. 67.7, NAS)

Context: In the beginning of earthly history, God's purpose was to bless His people so all peoples would glorify Him for His salvation. Now, at the end, God's purpose is fulfilled. People from every nation, tribe, people, and language are bowing down around the throne of God and singing praises to the One who has blessed them with salvation. This is the final, ultimate, all-consuming, glorious, guaranteed, overwhelmingly global purpose of God in Scripture. ***It is the great why of God.*** God blesses His people with extravagant grace so they might extend His extravagant glory to all peoples on the earth. We live in a church culture with a dangerous tendency to disconnect the grace of God from the glory of God. Our hearts resonate with the idea of enjoying God's grace. We bask in sermons, conferences, and books exalting a grace centering on us. And while the wonder of grace is worthy of our attention, if that grace is disconnected from its purpose, the sad result is a self-centered Christianity bypassing the heart of God.

DAY 2

BIBLE STUDY

Focal Passage: Psalm 67:1–7

Supporting Passages: Genesis 1:26–28; Luke 1:26–55; Acts 2:42–47; Acts 21:1–12;
Revelation 7:9–10

Biblical Truth: The blessings of God's people are to be used for making salvation known to all people.

1. Review the interview David Platt had with the church on p. 61-62. How did the pastor and a deacon respond to his testimony about missions?

Deacon _____

Pastor _____

Do you believe these responses are typical of most Christians in America? YES NO

Comments _____

2. In your own words, summarize the message of Christianity.

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3. Read Psalm 67.1. What were the people of God seeking from Him in this verse?

What does God's blessing look like in the lives of His people?

4. Read Psalm 67.2. For what purpose did the people seek God's blessing?

5. How do we go about making God known among the nations?

DAY 3

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUED

1. Read each verse below, then write beside the verse a reason given for why God created man in the first place.

Rev. 4.11	<hr/>
Prov. 16.4	<hr/>
Rom. 11.36	<hr/>
Col. 1.16	<hr/>
Isaiah 43.6	<hr/>
Gen. 1.27-28	<hr/>

Additional verses: Heb. 2.10; Eph. 1.10 with Col. 1.20; Eph. 2.7

2. Read David Platt's explanation of why men were created on p. 64-65. What are the two reasons that he identifies?

1)

2)

3. Read Gen. 12.1-3. How were these purposes exemplified in the life of Abraham and the nation of Israel? (Compare Gen. 18.18 and 22.18)

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4. God blesses His people with extravagant grace so they might extend His extravagant glory to all peoples on the earth. How did this principle work in the lives of the following Bible characters?

Moses & Israel (p. 66)

Shadrach, Meshach, &
Abednego (p. 66-67)

5. Now turn to Acts 1.8. How are these two purposes exemplified in this statement from Jesus Christ?

DAY 4

1. Read Psalm 67.3-5. What is the psalmist seeking from God in these verses?

What would motivate the nations to praise God, to be glad and to sing for joy? What has to happen for the nations to join in the worship of God?

2. Read Psalm 67.6-7. According to these verses, what happens when the people of God use the blessings of God to make Him known among the nations?

3. What do you suppose might happen if the people of God ignore His call to carry the gospel to the nations?

4. Read Rev. 7.9-10.

Who did John see gathered around God's throne? Where were they from?

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What were these people doing?

What lesson can we learn from this?

DAY 5

1. What does David Platt mean by the term “unbiblical Christianity” (p. 64)? What would be the meaning of “biblical Christianity”?

2. “...we are not at the center of his universe. God is at the center of his universe, and everything he does ultimately revolves around him.” (Circle one.)

I DISAGREE

I DON'T UNDERSTAND

I AGREE

Explain why this does not mean that God is selfish or self-centered. (p. 71)

3. After having studied this lesson all week, revisit your answer to Question 2 on Day 1. Then read from *Radical*, p. 70. Based on what David Platt says on this page and from the things you have studied from the Bible, how might you restate your answer to Question 2, Day 1 so that it is God-centered instead of man-centered?

4. Where in the Bible is missions ever identified as an optional program in the church? (p. 72)

5. “Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell.” (p. 74) How will you personally respond to this statement?